

REMARKS**Specification**

Applicants have amended paragraphs of the Specification beginning at page 1, line 1 and page 4, line 16 to replace Attorney Docket Numbers with Application Serial Numbers and filing dates in the description of related applications. No new matter is introduced by any of Applicants' amendments to the Specification.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure and has required status update of all patent applications referenced in the specification. Applicants have accordingly updated the status of all patent applications referenced in the specification, in compliance with the Examiner's requirement.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-47 were pending in the application. Applicants have herein amended claims 1, 11, 38, 39, and 43, canceled claims 2 and 17-37, and added new claims 48-64. No new matter is introduced by any of Applicants' claim amendments. Currently pending in the application are claims 1, 3-16, and 38-64 as amended herein.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 20, 33, and 39 because of informalities. Applicants have accordingly either canceled or corrected the informalities in claims 1, 20, 33, and 39, in compliance with the Examiner's requirement.

35 U.S.C. 103 Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crocker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6, 351,454 B1), hereinafter referred to as *Crocker*. Applicants have herein amended claim 1 to recite the limitation of claim 2, such that claim 1 as amended rewrites claim 2 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims, and is therefore allowable subject matter, in accordance with the Examiner. Claim 2 as originally written is canceled. Claims 3-10 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and therefore inherit all of the limitations of claim 1 as amended herein. Accordingly, since claim 1, as herein amended, is allowable, claims 3-

10 are also allowable for the same reasons. Applicants submit that claim 1 as amended and claims 3-10 are allowable, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 1 and 3-10 to pass to issue.

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-25, 28-29, and 33-37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fawaz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,374 B1), hereinafter referred to as *Fawaz*, in view of Hirome (U.S. Patent No. 5,309,435), hereinafter referred to as *Hirome*. Applicants have canceled claims 17-37. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections of claims 17-25, 28-29, and 33-37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are moot.

The Examiner has rejected claims 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fawaz*, in view of *Hirome* and further in view of *Crocker*. Applicants have canceled claims 17-37. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections of claims 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are moot.

The Examiner has rejected claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fawaz*, in view of *Hirome* and further in view of Valko (U.S. Patent No. 6,519,248 B1), hereinafter referred to as *Valko*. Applicants have canceled claims 17-37. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections of claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are moot.

Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 11-16 and 38-47 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to rewrite claim 2 in independent form, and have canceled original claim 2, as discussed above in connection with claim 1. Claim 1 as herein amended is thus believed to be in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 11-16, Applicants have rewritten claim 11 in independent form to include all of the limitations of original base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 11 as amended herein is believed to be allowable. Claims 12-16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 11, and therefore inherit all of the limitations of claim 11 as

herein amended. Accordingly, since claim 11, as herein amended, is allowable, claims 12-16 are also allowable for the same reasons. Applicants submit that claim 11 as amended and claims 12-16 are allowable, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 11 and 12-16 to pass to issue.

Regarding claims 38-47, Applicants have rewritten each of claims 38 and 43 in independent form to include all of the limitations of original base claim 17 and any intervening claims 34 and 36-37. Applicants have herein canceled original claims 17, 34, and 36-37. Accordingly, claims 38 and 43 as amended herein are believed to be allowable. Claims 39-42 and 44-47 depend directly or indirectly from respective claim 38 or 43, and therefore inherit all of the limitations of claim 38 or 43 as herein amended. Accordingly, since claims 38 and 43, as herein amended, are allowable, claims 39-42 and 44-47 are also allowable for the same reasons. Applicants submit that claims 38 and 43 as amended and claims 39-42 and 44-47 are allowable, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 38-47 to pass to issue.

New Claims

Applicants have herein added new claims 48-64, all dependent directly or indirectly from claim 38 and therefore inheriting all of the limitations of claim 38. Since claim 38 as amended is allowable, as discussed above, then new claims 48-64 should likewise be allowable for the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow new claims 48-64 to pass to issue.

Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims 1, 3-16, and 38-64 as amended in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The fee of \$43.00 for the additional claims is figured on the Transmittal sheet and a check is enclosed. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 59182/P003US/10020640 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 07-16-2004

Signature: 

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